



Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES TAX CREDITS TO REDUCE TAX LIABILITY

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 7, 2005) – The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (Commission), a state agency that administers the Citizens Clean Elections Act (Act), announced today a tax credit that will allow Arizona citizens to reduce their tax liability while putting money back into their pockets. Arizonans may reduce their tax liability by checking the Clean Elections Fund Tax Reduction box on their 2004 tax return.

“By donating to the Clean Elections Fund, citizens provide funding to a system that allows them to become more involved in Arizona state government,” said Autumn Southard, voter education manager of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. “The Clean Elections Act, in Arizona, has become a national model for meaningful campaign finance reform and this is a simple way for citizens to have their voice heard.”

By checking the box entitled “Clean Elections Fund Tax Reduction,” a citizen’s tax liability is instantly reduced by \$5 (or \$10 when married and filing jointly). The box is found on the first page of every Arizona state income tax return form.

“In 1998 voters passed the Clean Elections Act, a campaign finance reform measure designed to lower the influence of special interest money in Arizona statewide and legislative political campaigns,” added Southard. “The Act helps to reduce special interest money by providing full public funding to qualified candidates seeking legislative and statewide office.”

About the Citizens Clean Elections Commission

The Citizens Clean Elections Act, which was passed by voters in 1998, created a new campaign financing system that provides full public funding to qualified candidates who agree to abide by Citizens Clean Elections Commission guidelines. Candidates for statewide and legislative offices are eligible to participate in the public funding program.

To qualify for funding, participating candidates must adhere to strict spending and contribution limits and gather \$5 qualifying contributions from constituents who are registered voters. Participating candidates also agree to attend required debates.

For more information visit the Citizens Clean Elections Commission website: www.azcanelections.gov

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